

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 11-13 are presently active in this case, Claims 12 and 13 having been added by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1, 6, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobrehel (U.S. Patent No. 5,927,020). Claims 3-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobrehel in view of Grimes (U.S. Patent No. 5,040,335). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant traverses the art rejections.

The Applicant submits that the Kobrehel reference does not anticipate Claim 1 of the present application, since the Kobrehel reference does not disclose all of the limitations of Claim 1.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a door trim structure for automobiles. The door trim structure comprises a door trim and an inner door panel both made of a thermoplastic resin. The inner door panel and the door trim are formed into an integral one-piece unit by a blow-molding process, wherein the inner door panel includes a functional member attachment portion integral with the inner door panel, and wherein the functional member attachment portion includes a recess or a protrusion as a part of an inner wall of the door trim structure such that the functional member attachment portion is formed by the blow-molding process forming the inner door panel and the door trim into the integral one-piece unit.

The Kobrehel reference describes a modular insert trim unit for a motor vehicle door. The Official Action cites column 5, lines 34-35, and column 6, lines 18-22, for the teaching of a functional member attachment portion that is integral with the inner door panel.

Specifically, the Official Action cites the rigid fasteners (22) for the teaching of the functional member attachment portion of Claim 1. However, the Applicant notes that the rigid fasteners (22) do not provide an attachment portion for a functional member, but rather the rigid fasteners (22) merely secure a mounting plate (20). The mounting plate (20) does provide an attachment portion for a functional member, namely regulator (14), however the mounting plate (20) is not integral with the inner door panel in an integral one-piece unit. The present invention eliminates the need for a mounting plate.

Accordingly, the Kobrehel reference does not disclose all of the limitations recited in Claim 1 of the present application, since the Kobrehel reference does not disclose an inner door panel and door trim that are formed into an integral one-piece unit by a blow-molding process, wherein the inner door panel includes a functional member attachment portion integral with the inner door panel. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of Claim 1.

Claims 3-7 and 11-13 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 1.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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